

of, is also herewith transmitted, to facilitate the comprehension of the foregoing parts of this communication.

Allow me also, respectfully to recommend an augmentation of the gate-keeper's salary, which is deemed to be too small considering the responsibility of the station, and that its duties altogether preclude that officer from engaging in any other avocation or employment for the support of himself and family; and it may withal be well doubted whether the services of faithful and trustworthy men, qualifications indispensable, can be commanded or retained, except by the allowance of reasonable compensation, at least adequate to their support.

A change of the mode of compensating your superintendent, by substituting an annual and fixed salary in lieu of the *per diem* compensation now allowed, would conduce to the greater satisfaction of that officer and perhaps to the public advantage.

The 5th section of the act of 1835 directs the superintendent to report to the commissioners of Allegany county at each of their stated meetings the condition of the road, the sums received and expended, &c. The commissioners being invested with no power over the subject, this considerable labor seems to be uselessly devolved upon the superintendent, and the propriety of its repeal is therefore respectfully suggested. It may be further stated that the act of 1831 requires these reports to be made semi annually to the Hon. the Judges of Allegany county court, by whom the accounts are to be examined, and if correct, ratified and ordered to be established. Similar accounts are likewise required to be transmitted to the Governor and Council, the authority obviously contemplated by the act surrendering the work to the several states.

The policy, independently of these considerations, of subjecting this work of acknowledged general importance, to the supervision, direction or control of local authorities, imbued unavoidably with local prejudices and influences, is a question to be determined by the wisdom of the Legislature—if, indeed, such a transfer of the trust shall be found to be in accordance with the spirit of the surrender by the general government, which looked anxiously to the preservation of the work. Justly regarding it as an object of national importance, Congress made liberal appropriations from the public treasury, both in the